GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5761
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
TRANSIT AND STORAGE LOSS OF FOODGRAINS
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of transit and storage loss of foodgrains during the last three years;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to lessen or prevent this loss and its result thereof;

(c) whether the maximum loss occur in the transportation of foodgrains because there is no appropriate system for booking the foodgrains on the basis of their weight due to which Railways do not give receipt to the Department of Food and the Railways instead of its responsibility, loads the foodgrains on the responsibility of Department of food though Department of Food isprepared to make weighing bridge;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has held discussion with the Ministry of Railways for solution of this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and success achieved thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a): The percentage of transit and storage losses incurred by the Food Corporation of India for the last three years are as under:

(Quantity in lakhs MT)

Year	Transit loss		Storage loss	
	Quantity	Percentage	Quantity	Percentage
1999-00	2.95	1.17	1.72	0.34
2000-01	1.55	0.84	1.56	0.42
2001-02 (Provisional)	1.82	0.78	1.98	0.36

(b): The following remedial measures have been taken to prevent storage and transit losses:

(i) Deployment of security staff of the FCI (as well as Home Guards) for safety of the foodgrain stocks.

(ii) Deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the State Armed Police at `vulnerable` godowns.

(iii) Periodic security inspections, as also surprise checks of the depots at various levels to detect and plug theft/security lapses.

(iv) Installation of lorry electronic weigh-bridges and their surprise inspection.

(v) Improvement in size and quality of gunnies.

FCI has prescribed a procedure for prompt reporting, investigation and fixation of responsibility and write off storage losses. In case of transit losses, the prescribed procedure is to report the transit loss immediately to the consignor for speedy investigation and

fixation of responsibility wherever warranted. With the introduction of this procedure, significant improvement has been made in controlling the storage and transit losses.

(c),(d)&(e): Transit losses in food grains occur at various stages during multiple handling and transportation by various means, to and from the FCI Depots and railheads. Railways have no arrangement for weighing foodgrains consignments before booking. FCI has also not found it viable to install in-motion weigh-bridges at its cost. The Railway Board has made it clear that`clear Railway Receipt` or `said to contain` Railway Receipt have no meaning for the purpose ofshortages so far as the Railways are concerned, because, in either case when wagon seals remain intact, the Railways would normally have no liability for shortages, if any. The matter of installation of reliable in-motion weigh-bridges and the broad scheme thereof or any other alternative method for fixing accountability in the event of transit losses is yet to be decided between the FCI and the Railways.